

Message Text

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54

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 USSS-00 NSAE-00 IO-14 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15

ACDA-19 NIC-01 NEA-10 AF-10 SAJ-01 EA-11 DRC-01 /170 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4153

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USNATO BRUSSELS PRIORITY 8659

USUN NEW YORK 6560

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 27237

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PL, XF

SUBJECT: POLISH VIEWS ON ISRAELI/ARAB CONFLICT

1. POLISH FIRST SECRETARY MIROSLAW PALASZ (WHO HANDLES MID-EAST AND FAR EAST AFFAIRS) CALLED ON EMBOFF OCT 18 AT HIS REQUEST. AFTER BRIEF REMARKS ABOUT FAR EASTERN SITUATION, PALASZ QUICKLY TURNED CONVERSATION TO ARAB/ISRAELI CONFLICT, WHICH WAS OBVIOUSLY REASON FOR VISIT. PALASZ SAID GOP WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE SENTIMENT FAVORING ISRAEL IN FRANCE AS WAS SHOWN BY THE OCT 17 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEBATE (SEPTTEL). SOME 122 DEPUTIES ARE MEMBERS OF FRANCO-ISRAEL FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION. SIMILAR SENTIMENTS IN OTHER WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WOULD PROBABLY KEEP THEM FROM PLAYING A POSITIVE ROLE IN A RESOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT.

2. PALASZ SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS "OF COURSE" GIVING DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT TO THE ARAB COUNTRIES, BUT IT WAS BASICALLY CONFIDENTIAL

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CONCERNED ABOUT THE EFFECT WHICH THE CONFLICT WOULD HAVE ON

EUROPEAN DETENTE. WITH THE ESCALATION OF DELIVERY OF ARMS BY THE US AND USSR, THERE WERE RISKS OF THE WAR'S INTENSIFYING AND EVEN SPREADING. IT WAS CLEAR THAT USSR/US EFFORTS AT DETENTE HAD NOT PREVENTED CONFLICT, AND EUROPE (BY IMPLICATION EASTERN AS WELL AS WESTERN) WAS NOW TAKING NO POSITIVE ACTION DESPITE THE FACT THAT MID-EAST EVENTS IMPACTED DIRECTLY ON THE MEDITERRANEAN WORLD, AND HENCE ON EUROPE IN GENERAL. VARIOUS NEGOTIATIONS (SUCH AS SALT, MBFR, CSCE) COULD BE CASUALTIES OF THE ARAB/ISRAELI CONFLICT -- PARTICULARLY GIVEN THE DISRUPTIVE EFFORTS WHICH THE PRC WAS ALREADY USING. IT WAS ESSENTIAL FOR EUROPE THAT THERE BE A DURABLE PEACE IN THE AREA, AND BOTH ARAB AND ISRAELI FORMAL POSITIONS WERE EQUALLY UNREALISTIC AND UNHELPFUL -- ALTHOUGH RECENT EBAN AND SADAT POSITIONS GAVE SOME HOPE.

3. COMMENT: PALASZ DID NOT ATTACK US POLICY, WICH HE SAID WAS UNDERSTANDABLE IN LIGHT OF US INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION AND OTHER FACTORS, BUT PUT EMPHASIS ON VIEW THAT EUROPEANS SHOULD ALL PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN SEARCH FOR A DURABLE PEACE IN THE AREA SINCE THE EASTERN CORNER OF MEDITERRANEAN IS EUROPE'S BACKYARD.
IRWIN

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